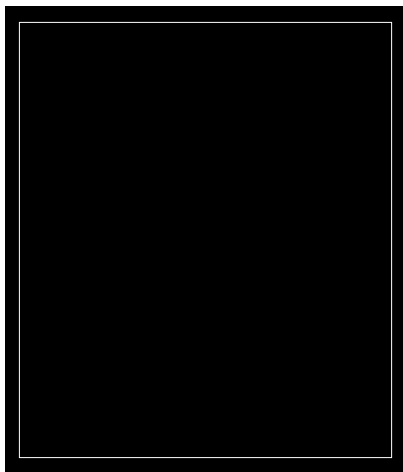


VISIT...



PACHYPODIUM

The Complete Guide To Cultivation

Learn all the basics for success in growing these valuable plants

Pachypodiums are some of the most popular in-demand plants in horticulture today but unfortunately very little cultural information exists to help the large number of collectors attempting to grow them. The special appeal of these plants lies in their exotic form and very beautiful flowers both of which cannot be realized without a sound understanding of their culture.

You're On Your Own

Most of the truly interesting plants usually present us with a challenge on how to care for them. This is part of what makes them rare and interesting. Pachypodiums certainly fall in this category and require a certain degree of personal involvement a little beyond the "it's putting out leaves so I guess I should water it" level.

This guide is presented in the spirit of developing a consciousness or greater awareness of what you can learn from your plants just by trying out sound cultural practices along with your own ideas and observing the results. All of us possess, to some degree, the ability to "pick up" on these cultural ideas or we wouldn't be attracted to these strange plants in the first place. The solutions to our problems are usually there right in front of us. All that's left is to train ourselves to see them.

Your efforts will be rewarded. With a little experience, the end result will be a degree of independence in solving your own problems. If you want to grow very good plants, you actually have no choice. Your plants are totally dependent on you for their care and only you can make the most of them. You are in every sense on your own.

I. Form and Function

The Two Schools

Culture studies can usually be divided into two groups. One school of thought which you still see quite often is that plants should be grown in a manner that mimics their habitat conditions. This is a hold over from the early days of the 50's and 60's. The other more contemporary school favors maximizing their potential in the man-made artificial environments we have set up for them. This will be our method.

What exactly do we mean by maximizing their potential? Above all else, it means growing plants that look natural. No plant grown under artificial conditions will ever look exactly like those found in the wild but in most cases we can come very close. By the time you finish this guide, you will be able to recognize a natural looking plant.

All plants possess a genetic make-up which makes them favor conditions similar to those of their native habitat but when we are growing them under artificial conditions, all the rules change. It is totally impossible to duplicate habitat conditions but we do incorporate these habitat preferences into our cultural methods only however as one element and not the big picture.

Life Cycle

Good culture depends on your understanding of the different phases your plants undergo during the course of a year. When to water, feed, repot, prune, and rest all relate to an understanding of the basic life cycle for Pachypodiums. It is actually quite simple as follows: Reproduction - Growth - Rest.

CONTENTS

I. Form And Function

A little theory but not too much.
We construct a cultural profile based on form and behavior.

II. Methodology

Now down to culture basics.
No laundry list of Do's and Don'ts but a highly integrated approach.
Key issues specific to Pachypodiums are examined in detail.
We examine all factors under our control and how to put them together in a way that's right for your growing conditions.

*Learn How To Grow Quality Plants
Like These Large Perfect Specimens:*

Pachypodium rosulatum - interesting twin stem plant. 5 years old grown from seed.

Pachypodium saundersii compactum - the beautiful Zimbabwe form. 6 years from seed.

